Let’s take an in-depth look at the data variables available in the Decennial Censuses and the American Community Survey.
You can see that most of these variables are familiar.

Those with an asterisk “*” and in red are collected in both the ACS and the 2010 Census. If you need only these characteristics, it is better to use the Census right now since we are so close to the census date.

Items in blue are only collected in the ACS.
Watch the Table “Universe”

- Every data table has a “universe” that reflects what the data in the table represent.
- It is important to know the table universe to correctly interpret the data in the table.
- In each table, the “Total” is the total count of the universe, not the total population for the area.
- Universe Examples:
  - B17001 – POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE
    Universe: Population for whom poverty status is determined
  - B18120 – EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE
    Universe: Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years
  - B25047 – PLUMBING FACILITIES FOR ALL HOUSING UNITS
    Universe: Housing units
Total Population

- The total population in the ACS is the estimates population of the geographic area. For states and counties, the total population is controlled to the Population Estimates Program (PEP) estimates from the US Census Bureau. [www.census.gov/popest/](http://www.census.gov/popest/)

- The total population estimates from the Demographic Research Unit will be different due to methodology, assumptions, and time period. [www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/)

- The total population counts from the 2010 Census is an actual count, not an estimate. For small levels of geography, the census is your best choice for total population.

Which source you use depends on your purpose and the need for current data.
Respondents sometimes round a person’s age up if they were close to having a birthday. For most single years of age, the misstatements are largely offsetting. The problem is most pronounced at age 0. Also, there may have been more rounding up to age 1 to avoid reporting age as 0 years. (Age in completed months was not collected for infants under age 1.) Editing procedures correct this problem.

**Age heaping** is a common age misreporting error. Age heaping is the tendency for people to overreport ages (or years of birth) that end in certain digits (commonly digits “0” or “5”) and underreport ages or years of birth ending in other digits. The two-part question helps minimize the effect of age heaping on the final tabulations.
Note the three fill-ins.

Note that Hispanic is NOT one of the choices for race.
Race

- Based on self-identification.
- The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.
- People may select more than one race to indicate their racial mixture, such as “American Indian” and “White.”
- The ability to select more than one race was introduced in the 2000 census. Therefore, race counts for 2000 and 2010 are not directly comparable to counts for the 1990 census and earlier.
- Hispanic is an ethnicity, NOT a race.
- Data are usually reported for six major race categories (White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and Some Other Race)

The actual race categories required are stipulated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget
Most race tables are for “alone” categories.

Race “Alone”

- People who reported a single entry (e.g., Korean or Black) and no other race.
- People who reported two or more entries within the same major race group (e.g., Asian). For example, respondents who reported Korean and Vietnamese are part of the larger “Asian alone” race group.
- Data tables will include “alone” in the name, for example, “White alone” or “Some Other Race alone”.
- The race “alone” groups will include Hispanics unless specifically labeled “not Hispanic or Latino”. So “White alone” will include Hispanics who are also White but “White alone, not Hispanic or Latino” will not include White Hispanics.
Race “Alone or in any combination”

- People who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) AND people who reported that race in combination with one or more of the other major race groups.
- Data tabulations are usually referred to as “tallies”.
- Represents the maximum number of people who reported as that race group, either alone or in combination with one or more additional race(s).
- The sum of the six individual race “alone-or-in-combination” categories add to more than the total population because people who reported more than one race were tallied in each race category.
- Applies to detailed race groups, such as American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and detailed Asian and Pacific Islander groups. For example, Korean alone or in any combination includes people who reported a single response (e.g., Korean), people who reported Korean and another Asian group (e.g., Korean and Vietnamese), and people who reported Korean in combination with one or more other non-Asian race groups.

The concept “race alone or in combination” includes people who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) and people who reported that race in combination with one or more of the other major race groups (e.g., White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race). The concept “race alone or in combination” concept, therefore, represents the maximum number of people who reported as that race group, either alone or in combination with one or more additional race(s). The sum of the six individual race “alone-or-in-combination” categories may add to more than the total population because people who reported more than one race were tallied in each race category.

This also applies to detailed race groups, such as American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, detailed Asian groups, and detailed Pacific Islander groups. For example, Korean alone or in any combination includes people who reported a single response (e.g., Korean), people who reported Korean and another Asian group (e.g., Korean and Vietnamese), and people who reported Korean in combination with one or more other non-Asian race groups.
When comparing the “alone” with “in combination” notice:

The total populations do not match – combination is higher – because persons with multiple races are counted multiple times.
When looking for race data in your program, ask yourself – “How do I need to count Hispanics?”
Hispanic or Latino

- Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.

- The wording of the Hispanic question and its position on the questionnaire in relation to the race question have changed over time. However, it has been based on self-identification since the 1980 census.

- In California, we consider Hispanics as a "race group". Therefore, state programs should use the "not Hispanic" race tabulations. If you do not, you will double count Hispanics.
People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race. So if you use a race table that is not Hispanic exclusive and then add in the Hispanics, you will be double-counting the Hispanics.

In general, programs will use the Hispanic exclusive data unless the program targets a specific group, such as American Indians, then it may be more appropriate to count all Amer Indians, including those also Hispanic.

So if your tables have a total that is higher than the population of the area, ask yourself, “where are the Hispanics?”.
Housing Units

- A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.
- Classified as Occupied or Vacant
- Occupied Housing Units are also called “Households”.
- Nontraditional living quarters such as boats, RVs, and tents are considered to be housing units only if someone is living in them and they are either the occupant’s usual residence or the occupant has no usual residence elsewhere.
Group quarters are places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement, which are owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. This is not a typical household-type living arrangement. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other.

- There are two types of GQ:
  - Institutional
  - Noninstitutional
Institutional Group Quarters

- Institutional group quarters are facilities that house those who are primarily ineligible, unable, or unlikely to participate in the labor force while residents.
- They include:
  - Correctional Facilities for Adults and Juveniles (Federal and state prisons, local jails, military disciplinary facilities)
  - Nursing Facilities/Skilled-Nursing Facilities
  - Mental (psychiatric) hospitals
  - In-patient hospice facilities
  - Residential schools for people with disabilities

Although the definition by the Census Bureau refers to participation in the labor force, it may be easier to think of this as the occupants are not free to come and go or need care.

NOTE: Persons in Institutional Group quarters are not included in the poverty universe. So if you are looking at poverty data for the elderly, keep in mind that those in skilled nursing homes are not included.
Noninstitutional Group Quarters

- Noninstitutional GQ facilities that house those who are primarily eligible, able, or likely to participate in the labor force while residents.
- They include:
  - College/University Student Housing
  - Military Quarters (barracks and ships)
  - Emergency and transitional shelters (with sleeping facilities) for people experiencing homelessness
  - Residential treatment centers for adults
  - Workers’ group living quarters
  - Religious group quarters
  - Domestic violence shelters

The Census Bureau is in the process of improving the way the estimate the GQ pop in the ACS. If you need a count by type of GQ, you will need to go to the decennial census.
Household Relationship – Householder

- A household (HH) includes all the people who occupy a housing unit.
- The Householder is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented.
- If there is no such person in the household, any adult household member 15 years old and over could be designated as the householder.
- This person is entered as Person 1 on the questionnaire.
- Only one person in each household is designated as the householder.
- Some tabulations display household/family data by race/ethnicity. Households are classified by the race/ethnicity of the householder.
Household Relationship

- Each member of the household is asked about their relationship to the householder (Person 1).

### 2. How is this person related to Person 1?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>Mark ONE box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husband or wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological son or daughter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted son or daughter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepson or stepdaughter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother or sister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father or mother</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandchild</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-in-law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son-in-law or daughter-in-law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roomer or boarder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housemate or roommate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried partner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nonrelative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Household Relationship – Spouse

- The “spouse” category includes a person identified as the husband or wife of the householder.
- Must be of the opposite sex of the householder. Unless otherwise specified, data tabulations do not include same-sex spouses even if a marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples.
- Same-sex spouses are re-classified to “unmarried partners” which is grouped with non-relatives.

The ACS does not have a classification for “registered domestic partners”
Own children and related children are frequently used in the data tables.
Household Relationship – Other Relatives

- **Grandchild**—The grandson or granddaughter of the householder.
- **Brother/Sister**—The brother or sister of the householder, including stepbrothers, stepsisters, and brothers and sisters by adoption.
- **Parent**—The father or mother of the householder, including a stepparent or adoptive parent.
- **Parent-in-Law**—The mother-in-law or father-in-law of the householder.
- **Son-in-law or Daughter-in-Law**—The spouse of the child of the householder.
- **Other Relatives**—Anyone not listed in a reported category above who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption (brother–in–law, grandparent, nephew, aunt, cousin, and so forth).
The Census Bureau has released data on same sex households from the 2010 census –

Run through some examples:

Man – GF – her child  (the woman and her child is a sub-family which is not tabulated separately in the ACS or Census)

Man – GF – his child

Same sex partner household
Typical types of households in data tabulation.

For some tables, there is also an indication in each Family type about the presence of children by age. <5, 5-17 or <18.

In the family household with no spouse present – this not necessarily a count of single parents because the relative to make it a family does not have to be a child.

Look for tabulations by family type that show the number of “own children”. For example P38 in the 2010 Census SF1
In the single householder family – this not necessarily a count of single parents because the relative to make it a family does not have to be a child.

Look for tabulations by family type that show the number of “own children”. For example P38

### FAMILY TYPE BY PRESENCE AND AGE OF OWN CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California</th>
<th>Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>8,642,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband–wife family:</td>
<td>6,213,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>2,942,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No own children under 18 years</td>
<td>3,270,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other family:</td>
<td>2,429,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder, no wife present:</td>
<td>752,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>350,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No own children under 18 years</td>
<td>401,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder, no husband present:</td>
<td>1,676,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>856,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No own children under 18 years</td>
<td>819,934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THIS IS THE END OF THE BASICS WHICH ARE IN BOTH THE ACS AND CENSUS. NOW ONTO THE ACS ONLY – SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS.**
The instructions further specified that schooling completed in foreign or ungraded school systems should be reported as the equivalent level of schooling in the regular American system.

The instructions specified that certificates or diplomas for training in specific trades or from vocational, technical or business schools were not to be reported. Honorary degrees awarded for a respondent’s accomplishments were not to be reported.
Educational Attainment

- Most tabulations on educational attainment have a universe of persons 25 years old and older. However, Table C15001 in the ACS has a universe of persons 18+.
- Additional education variables include
  - School enrollment and grade level for population 3 years old and older.
  - Field of degree for Bachelor’s degrees only.
  - School type – private/public and elementary/secondary/college/graduate school.
Veteran status is not linked to their discharge status.

These data are used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to plan the locations and sizes of veterans’ cemeteries.

Period of service  B21002

Since the service-connected disability status and ratings was added in 2008 it is currently only available in the 1-year and 3-year data files.
Since the disability status was added in 2008 it is currently only available in the 1-year and 3-year data files. It will be available for all levels of geography in a 5-year file beginning with the 2008-2012 file to be released in late 2013.
Since the disability status was changed in 2008 it is currently only available in the 1-year and 3-year data files. It will be available for all levels of geography in a 5-year file beginning with the 2008-2012 file to be released in late 2013. Disability data in the ACS from 2008 forward is not comparable with pre-2008 data – including the 2000 census.

Disability status is determined from the answers from these six types of difficulty.

- For children under 5 years old, hearing and vision difficulty are used to determine disability status.
- For children between the ages of 5 and 14, disability status is determined from hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, and self-care difficulties.
- For people aged 15 years and older, they are considered to have a disability if they have difficulty with any one of the six difficulty types.

Self-identified, no doctor certification
Language Spoken at Home andAbility to Speak English

- Language is tabulated for persons 5 years old and older.
- It is important to look at language AND the ability to speak English to accurately determine those individuals that may need translation assistance to participate in a program.

Instructions mailed with the American Community Survey questionnaire instructed respondents to mark “Yes” on Question 14a if they sometimes or always spoke a language other than English at home, and “No” if a language was spoken only at school – or if speaking was limited to a few expressions or slang. For Question 14b, respondents printed the name of the non-English language they spoke at home. If the person spoke more than one non-English language, they reported the language spoken most often. If the language spoken most frequently could not be determined, the respondent reported the language learned first.

Table B16001 – 39 languages by ability. Only Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Thai, Mon-Khmer & Cambodian, Laotian, and Armenian have 50% or more in each group that do not speak English well.

If someone cannot speak/read English and do not complete their ACS survey, the Census Bureau will send out an enumerator with the language skills or they will be sent the questionnaire instructions in another language.
"Total income" is the sum of the amounts reported separately for:
- Wage or salary income (wages, salary, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses)
- Net self-employment income
- Interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts
- Social Security or Railroad Retirement income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Public assistance or welfare payments
- Retirement, survivor, or disability pensions
- All other income (unemployment compensation, worker’s compensation, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) payments, alimony and child support, etc.)

Income includes cash income only – noncash benefits such as Food Stamps are not included.

Income is tabulated for persons 15 years old and over.
The ACS collects data throughout the year on an on-going, monthly basis and asks for a respondent's income over the "past 12 months." Census 2000, however, collected the income data for a fixed period of time -- "during 1999" (the last calendar year).

In the ACS, monthly Consumer Price Indices (CPI) factors were used to inflation-adjust income components to a reference calendar year (January through December).

The ACS collects data throughout the year on an on-going, monthly basis and asks for a respondent's income over the "past 12 months." Census 2000, however, collected the income data for a fixed period of time -- "during 1999" (the last calendar year).

For example, the 2010 ACS 1-year data reflect incomes over 2009-2010, the 2008-2010 ACS 3-year data reflect incomes over 2007-2010, and the 2006-2010 ACS 5-year data reflect incomes over 2005-2010.

Comparing income for the annual 1-year ACS means there is some overlap in the time periods – 2011 ACS = 2010-2011 and 2010 ACS = 2009-2010.
Although the household income statistics cover the past 12 months, the characteristics of individuals and the composition of households refer to the time of interview.

Thus, the income of the household does not include amounts received by individuals who were members of the household during all or part of the past 12 months if these individuals no longer resided in the household at the time of interview. Similarly, income amounts reported by individuals who did not reside in the household during the past 12 months but who were members of the household at the time of interview are included. However, the composition of most households was the same during the past 12 months as at the time of interview.

Earnings are calculated for 16+ because that is the universe for labor force.
Although the household income statistics cover the past 12 months, the characteristics of individuals and the composition of households refer to the time of interview. Thus, the income of the household does not include amounts received by individuals who were members of the household during all or part of the past 12 months if these individuals no longer resided in the household at the time of interview. Similarly, income amounts reported by individuals who did not reside in the household during the past 12 months but who were members of the household at the time of interview are included. However, the composition of most households was the same during the past 12 months as at the time of interview.

Gini – Sierra County 0.389 to San Fran 0.507.
Because the income questions specify a period covering the last 12 months, the appropriate poverty thresholds are determined by multiplying the base-year poverty thresholds (1982) by the average of the monthly inflation factors for the 12 months preceding the data collection. See the table in Appendix A titled “Poverty Thresholds in 1982, by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years (Dollars),” for appropriate base thresholds. See the table “The 2010 Poverty Factors” in Appendix A for the appropriate adjustment based on interview month.

For example, consider a family of three with one child under 18 years of age, interviewed in July 2010 and reporting a total family income of $14,000 for the last 12 months (July 2009 to June 2010). The base year (1982) threshold for such a family is $7,765, while the average of the 12 inflation factors is 2.24574. Multiplying $7,765 by 2.24574 determines the appropriate poverty threshold for this family type, which is $17,438. Comparing the family's income of $14,000 with the poverty threshold shows that the family and all people in the family are considered to have been in poverty.
### 2010 Poverty Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>Number of related children under 18 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One person (unrelated individual)</td>
<td>11,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 65 years</td>
<td>11,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>10,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people</td>
<td>14,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder under 65 years</td>
<td>14,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder 65 years and over</td>
<td>13,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three people</td>
<td>17,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four people</td>
<td>22,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five people</td>
<td>26,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six people</td>
<td>30,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven people</td>
<td>34,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight people</td>
<td>37,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine people or more</td>
<td>45,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
Persons for Whom Poverty is Determined

- Poverty status is determined for families and for unrelated individuals.

- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Poverty status is determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.

- When calculating the percent of persons in poverty or “poverty rate”, you must use the correct denominator. Both the numerator and denominator when calculating poverty rates should be “persons for who poverty is determined” NOT the total population.

- Use data from the same table for the numerator and denominator.

What is an unrelated individual?
The total population from the 2010 ACS is 37,349,363 so 755,991 people are not included in the poverty universe. So the "Total" is the total of the universe for this table, NOT the total population.
100%, 150%, 200%...

- In poverty tabulations in the ACS, “below poverty level” or “persons in poverty” means “below 100% of poverty level”. This level uses the thresholds as specified in the family size by number of children matrix.

- However, California has a higher cost of living than most of the nation, so several state programs use adjusted levels of poverty. In ACS tabulations, these are called “ratio of income to poverty level”.

- The poverty ratios show persons by “adjusted” poverty level. So for example for 200% of poverty, instead of being below the number shown in the threshold matrix, the threshold is multiplied by 2 and the result is the threshold used to determine poverty status.

- In ACS tabulations, pay attention to the labels – in some tables, the ratio of income to poverty levels are in ranges, not cumulative.
### Ratio of Income to Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>8,507,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Under .50</strong></td>
<td>399,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>.50 to .74</strong></td>
<td>279,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>.75 to .99</strong></td>
<td>324,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.00 to 1.24</strong></td>
<td>371,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.25 to 1.49</strong></td>
<td>387,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.50 to 1.74</strong></td>
<td>387,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.75 to 1.84</strong></td>
<td>138,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.85 to 1.99</strong></td>
<td>197,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.00 to 2.99</strong></td>
<td>1,273,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.00 to 3.99</strong></td>
<td>1,035,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.00 to 4.99</strong></td>
<td>835,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.00 and over</strong></td>
<td>2,875,761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are in ranges, not cumulative. You must add up the ranges below your target level.

Source: 2010 ACS, B17002
In the 2000 census, the reference week was “last week” but since most census forms were completed in April and May, the time period is not as spread out as it is for the ACS.

The number employed includes 1 and 3. Unemployed are 2 and 4.
Employed – all civilians 16 years old and over who either (1) were “at work,” that is, those who did any work at all during the reference week as paid employees, worked in their own business or profession, worked on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a family farm or in a family business; or (2) were “with a job but not at work,” that is, those who did not work during the reference week but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons.

Unemployed – All civilians 16 years old and over if they (1) were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week, and (2) were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to start a job. Also included as unemployed are civilians who did not work at all during the reference week, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available for work except for temporary illness.

Not in Labor Force – All people 16 years old and over who are not in the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season.
Unemployment Rate

The number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Be careful to use the right number. This is an extract of 2010 ACS Data Profile 3 – Economic Characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Estimate Margin of Error</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 16 years and over</td>
<td>29,159,527</td>
<td>+/-10,611</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In labor force</td>
<td>18,759,274</td>
<td>+/-41,728</td>
<td>64.30%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian labor force</td>
<td>18,625,515</td>
<td>+/-41,714</td>
<td>63.90%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>16,243,172</td>
<td>+/-45,906</td>
<td>55.70%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>2,362,343</td>
<td>+/-29,929</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Forces</td>
<td>133,759</td>
<td>+/-4,527</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labor force</td>
<td>10,400,253</td>
<td>+/-43,179</td>
<td>35.70%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Civilian labor force               | 18,625,515| +/-41,714                 | (X)     |                         |
| Percent Unemployed                 | (X)       | (X)                       | 12.80%  | +/-0.1                  |

Be careful – in some ACS tabulations, such as DP3 – Economic Characteristics, the percent of the unemployed is the unemployed as a percent of the total population 16+ - this is NOT the unemployment rate.
Occupational data are collected from the unemployed to be used in Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action programs. They are added to the employed data to develop an “experienced labor force” – persons who are currently employed or have been employed in the last five years.

However in ACS tabulations of occupation, the universe is the civilian employed population 16+.
Industry

- Describe the kind of business conducted by a person’s employing organization.
- For employed people, the data refer to the person’s job during the previous week. For those who worked two or more jobs, the data refer to the job where the person worked the greatest number of hours.
- For unemployed people and people who are not currently employed but report having a job within the last five years, the data refer to their last job.
- Coded based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). There are 269 detailed industries, classified into 20 major industry sectors.
Class of Worker

- Classifies people according to the type of ownership of the employing organization.

- **Categories include:**
  - Private wage and salary workers (for profit and non-profit)
  - Government workers (federal, state, and local)
  - Self-employed
  - Unpaid family workers

- The industry category, "Public Administration," is limited to regular government functions such as legislative, judicial, administrative, and regulatory activities.

- Other government organizations such as public schools, public hospitals, protection services, and bus lines are classified by industry according to the activity in which they are engaged.
ACS versus EDD data

- ACS employment data are not comparable to the data available from the Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division.
- The reference week is different – “last week” for ACS and the “week including the 12th of the month” for EDD.
- EDD’s labor force data are by place of residence as are ACS data.
- EDD’s industry and occupation data are by place of work as these are data collected directly from employers. ACS industry and occupation data are by place of residence.
- This distinction can be very important in a county or city with a high volume of workers who travel into the area to work but live outside the area. San Francisco is a good example of this.
- The industry data from EDD is first classified by class of worker. The industry data is for private workers only – government workers are grouped together in government.
Place of Work

- Asked of people who indicated that they worked at some time during the reference week.
- Refers to the geographic location at which workers carried out their occupational activities.
- Place-of-work data may show a few workers who made unlikely daily work trips (e.g., workers who lived in New York and worked in California). This result is attributable to people who were away from home on business during the reference week.
Workplace Data

- The characteristics of workers may be shown using either residence-based or workplace-based geography.
- If you are interested in the number and characteristics of workers living in a specific area, you should use the standard (residence-based) journey-to-work tables.
- If you are interested in the number and characteristics of workers who work in a specific area, you should use the workplace-based journey-to-work tables.
- Because place-of-work information for workers cannot always be specified below the place level, the workplace-based tables are presented only for selected geographic areas. So pay attention to table titles and universes.
Journey to Work

- There are several characteristics to describe a worker's journey to and from work:
  - Means of Transportation to Work (principal mode of travel or type of conveyance)
  - Private Vehicle Occupancy
  - Workers Per Car, Truck, or Van
  - Time Leaving Home to Go to Work
  - Travel Time to Work
  - Aggregate Travel Time to Work (in Minutes) to calculate average commute times.
  - Time Arriving at Work from Home

- The universe for most journey to work tables are workers 16 years and older who did not work at home. Or "work at home" is a separate category on the table.
Health Insurance

- Health insurance coverage includes plans and programs that provide comprehensive health coverage.
- Other types of insurance like dental, vision, life, and disability insurance are not included. Considered health insurance coverage.
- Private health insurance is a plan provided through an employer or union, a plan purchased by an individual from a private company, or TRICARE or other military health care. All others are public coverage.
- The types of health insurance are not mutually exclusive; people may be covered by more than one at the same time.
- This was added to the ACS in 2008.
Housing: Tenure

- Occupied housing units are grouped by ownership – called "tenure".
- A housing unit is **owner occupied** if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit. They are also classified on whether or not they have a mortgage.
- All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented or occupied without payment of rent, are classified as **renter occupied**.
Kitchen Facilities: need all three to be classified as “complete kitchen” but need not be in the same room.

Plumbing Facilities: if lacking one, classified as “lacking complete plumbing facilities”

Use caution for both when comparing pre-2008 ACS with 2008-current as there was a wording change in the question which resulted in some inconsistencies.
In censuses prior to 2000, financial housing data were provided for specified units. “Specified units” exclude mobile homes, houses with a business or medical office, houses on 10 or more acres, and housing units in multiunit buildings. In the 2000 census, there were tabulations for specified units and for all units. Data from the ACS can be compared to the 2000 census tabulations for all units but not to prior censuses.

Financial Characteristics for Owner-Occupied Units

- Condominium Status and Fee
- Mobile Home Costs
- Mortgage Status and Payment (includes everything paid to the lender)
- Second or Junior Mortgage Payments or Home Equity Loan
- Insurance for Fire, Hazard, and Flood
- Real Estate Taxes
- Utilities Costs
- Value (The respondent’s estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale.)
Gross rent is intended to eliminate differentials that result from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels as part of the rental payment. The estimated costs of water and sewer, and fuels are reported on a 12-month basis but are converted to monthly figures for the tabulations.

“No rent paid” units are separately identified in the rent tabulations. Such units are generally provided free by friends or relatives or in exchange for services such as resident manager, caretaker, minister, or tenant farmer. Housing units on military bases also are classified in the “No rent paid” category. “Rented” includes units in continuing care, sometimes called life care arrangements. These arrangements usually involve a contract between one or more individuals and a health services provider guaranteeing the individual shelter, usually a house or apartment, and services, such as meals or transportation to shopping or recreation.
Monthly Housing Costs

- Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgages, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer); and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.).

- Gross rent is the comparable measure for renters.

- Both of these are compared to the income for their respective household income to determine the portion of the income that is spent on housing. This is called “Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income.”
Resources:

- User Handbooks on the American Community Survey –
- American Community Survey – Subject Definitions
  [www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/](www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/)
- Comparing ACS Data
  [www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_data/](www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_data/)
- Census Questionnaires:
  [www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/](www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/)
- ACS Questionnaires:
  [www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/questionnaire_archive/](www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/questionnaire_archive/)
Questions? Call Us.

California State Data Center
www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/

ficalpop@dof.ca.gov
(916) 323–4086

Thank you!